[sanitama] of the municipalities were to act as justices of peace."[112] The first justice appointed in Siaton was Felipe Tayko who had no law degree but "whose position and circumstances warranted it." 175* 624

Often the first justices resigned and, according to Gadiane, "sometimes there was no justice of peace in Siaton and the capitan acted as the justice." Gadiane himself was justice of the peace in Siaton from 1906-1914.

Until the appointment of the justices, land disputes in Siaton had been settled either by the capitan or the teniente mayor (chief lieutenant,, a position similar to the present vice-mayor of a municipality). During the Spanish period there were few court cases over land claims "because wide areas were still uncultivated, although there were disputes over boundaries which were settled very easily." There were normal disturbances of peace and order due to theft, fights caused by gambling debts or drunkenness, etc. Persons caught stealing were given 150 lashes at the church entrance after the Sunday mass. The offenders were jailed until their wounds had healed. "Mostly, those who were caught and punished left 175* 685 624 622 [689] 175* 681

[112] Cayetano S. Arellano and Florentino Torres, "The Judiciary," Census of the Philippine Islands: 1903. Washington, D.C., United States Bureau of Census, 1905, IV, p. 403. Some sources state the justices of the peace were authorized in 1865. The confusion is because the reform, a royal order of May 29, 1865, was not confirmed until January 24, 1887. There was a lag of six years between the confirmation of this decree and the appointment of the first justice of the peace in Siaton.